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**REMARKS**

**Status of the Claims**

Claims 21-27 are pending. Claims 21-27 are rejected. Claim 27 is canceled.  
Claims 21 and 24 are amended.

**The 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections**

Claims 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by either Juul-A (Juul, A. et al. J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab., 78(3): 744-752, 1994) or by Juul-B (Juul, A. et al., Clinical Endocrinology, 41: 85-93, 1994).

The Examiner states that the claims do not describe the characteristics of the healthy individuals other than that they do not have prostate cancer, so that the claims read on methods where IGF-I levels are measured in at least two individuals that do not have prostate cancer, and that a comparison of IGF-I levels is made.

Juul-A measures IGF-I in healthy individuals and compares IGF-I levels found in different groups of healthy individuals. Juul-B measures serum IGF-I levels in individuals that do not have prostate cancer, and compares these levels to other individuals without prostate cancer. The Examiner states that Juul-A and Juul-B teach methods that are the same as those claimed, because they teach methods that use the same active steps as those recited in the claims.

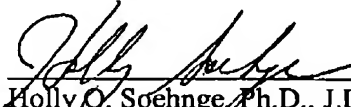
Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. As amended, the claims recite the step of reporting an increased risk of prostate cancer in a healthy individual, wherein an elevated concentration of IGF-I above the reference level indicates

an increased risk for prostate cancer. Juul-A and Juul-B teach the measurement of IGF-I levels in healthy individuals and the comparison of these levels to IGF-I levels in other individuals, but do not teach that increased IGF-I levels are associated with an increased risk for prostate cancer. Neither Juul-A nor Juul-B teaches the reporting of an increased risk of prostate cancer in a healthy individual. Juul-A and Juul-B do not teach each and every element of, and therefore do not anticipate the claims as amended. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) be withdrawn.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed December 19, 2006. If any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney of record for immediate resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

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